

WEEK 4

TOPIC: IMPARTIALITY

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson the learners should be able to:

1. Explain the meaning of impartiality
2. Justify the need to treat people equally since all human beings are equal before God.
3. Describe the negative effect of favouritism and tribalism on society.
4. Explain how keeping the golden rule can lead to a humane and just society.

Impartiality

Bible passages: James 2:1-3; Mathew 7:12; Luke 6:31.

Impartiality is the treatment of everybody equally in spite of sex, age, religion and status. It also means the act of not favouring one person or group more than and over others. James teaches Christians the need to avoid partiality in their daily dealings with others in the church and outside the church.

James warned Christians not to allow class or distinction to be a driving factor in their midst. They should not snub and relegate the poor to the background while giving unusual attention and recognition to the rich. Partiality is a sin before God and is as serious as any other sin.

All human beings are equal before God.

In Genesis 1:26-28, God said let us make man in our own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them. This means that everybody created by God are equal before him. Our God does not discriminate. Every human being created by God has a living body, soul and spirit equipped with all five senses. This shows us that God made all things beautiful and all men are equal before God.

The negative effects of partiality

There is a wide spread of racial prejudice in the world. Similarly, favouritism, tribalism and sectionalism rampant social vices in Nigeria and other countries of the world. Appointments, promotions and transfers in the public service in the country are not always based on merit but on the social and political factors of tribe, geopolitical zone, sex, religion and political affiliation. In the area of justice, the laws of the land are titled to favour the rich while the poor are sent to the prison for a long-time minor offence. James, in his letter expressed dismay and disgust at the practice of favouritism in the church and warned about the consequences of allowing such an unfair practice in the church.

The Golden Rule (Mathew 7:12, Luke 6:31)

Jesus gave the golden rule to emphasise the importance of loving one another without discrimination and to remind us that we should be careful in the way we treat others. Mathews account says ‘so in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this is the law and the prophets. (Mathew 7:12). While Luke state or reports the Golden Rule this way.

‘Do to others as you would have them do to you’ (Luke 6:31).